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# Romulus News

AUGUST 13, 2004 – AUGUST 26, 2004 "the little paper" VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

## Timely Tidbits ...

### School Start Date

Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the Romulus Community Schools, has announced that students are scheduled to attend their first day of classes on Wednesday, September 1. Teachers and support staff will kick off the 2004–2005 school year with a staff recognition ceremony, to be held at Romulus High School at 8 a.m. on Monday, August 30.

Said Kruse, "Students will attend full days on Wednesday, September 1, and Thursday, September 2. The district will be closed on Friday, September 3, and Monday, September 6, for the Labor Day weekend. A full day of classes for teachers and students will resume on Tuesday, September 7."

According to Kruse, the school district and the Romulus Education Association/Wayne County Michigan Education Association are continuing their negotiations regarding the calendar for the remainder of the school year.

"The community will be notified as soon as this information is available," he noted.

Kruse said that the district is looking forward to a year of outstanding educational achievement.

"Last year, our elementary MEAP [Michigan Education Assessment Program] scores rose to the state average in both math and language arts, and the 2004 State of Michigan "Education YES!" report card showed five of our six elementary schools with 'A' and 'B' grades," he explained.

### Branch Office Closes

The Secretary of State's Romulus branch office will close its doors for the last time at 5 p.m. on Friday, August 13.

Starting Monday, August 16, area residents will be served by the Southwest Wayne County PLUS Office at 795 Sumpter Road in Belleville. Hours for the Belleville office will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday. For more information, visit www.Michigan.gov/sos. ❑

## War Memorial Controversy Spurs Council Action

*by Kristi Stephens*

What began as one man's well-intentioned plan to preserve a local monument quickly became a controversial subject that ended by drawing the notice, and action, of the Romulus City Council.

Bill Crane has a long and impressive history of community work. Although he is best known for spearheading the Romulus Rotary's campaign to erect the Veterans Memorial that has stood near Romulus City Hall since 1992, Crane has also been an active member of several other service organizations, and has contributed generously to many worthy causes.

So, when the owner of Crane Funeral Home noticed that a World War I memorial – located at the corner Goddard and Shook roads – was looking shabby, he truly believed that he was doing a good thing when he set out to refurbish it and have it moved to Romulus Historic Park.

"I asked myself, 'Why is this thing so pitted and so nasty?' – you know, it's been there, what? [only] 80-some years.

*continued on page 3*

**Local businessman Bill Crane thought everyone would be happy to have this World War I memorial refurbished and relocated, but his good intentions drew sharp criticism from residents who want the landmark to remain in its current location at the corner of Goddard and Shook roads. (The plaque, dedicated by The Sunshine Club, reads "In honor of our boys who served in The World War, 1914 to 1918.")**

## New Law Lets Teachers' Kids Attend School in Same District

State Senator Ray Basham (D–Taylor) said he was pleased to announce that Senate Bill 599 was signed into law by Governor Jennifer Granholm on July 21. The bill, which Basham sponsored, allows public school teachers and other school professionals to enroll their children in the district where they are employed, even if they don't reside there.

"I want to thank Governor Granholm for giving Michigan's public school teachers peace of mind in knowing that they can now have their children nearby, and also avoid the challenges of conflicting school schedules, if they prefer," said Basham. "This bill removes certain bureaucratic obstacles that could potentially keep parent and child apart.

"Our public school teachers and school personnel provide an important service to the community," he added. "The least we can do is support these individuals and their families by ensuring their children are not denied the opportunity to be near them."

The idea for Basham's bill was first suggested by Richard Kruse, director of public relations for the Romulus Community Schools.

**Dick Kruse (left), PR director for Romulus Community Schools, proposed the idea for SB 599 to State Senator Ray Basham.**

"I wrote up the proposal and approached then-Representative Basham with the idea several years ago," said Kruse. "Basically, the bill amends the State School Aid Act to allow schools to accept students from another district without its permission if the parent works for the new district.

"Basham supported the concept, but was unable to get the bill out of committee in the House of Representatives," Kruse continued. "However, he kept at it, and tried again – this time, with success – once he became a senator."

Kruse complimented Basham on his diligence and persistence, saying, "Ray Basham is an outstanding representative for his constituents. He listens to their concerns and follows through with efforts in Lansing.

"We are always happy to welcome Senator Basham on his frequent visits to our school district programs and events," he added.

Kruse noted that when the district's nonresident teachers enroll their children in Romulus schools, they will enjoy a number of advantages.

"Employees will be able to reap the benefits of having colleagues teach and work with their children, having vacations at the same time, and being close to their children," he explained.

Another advantage, according to Kruse, is the district's partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Romulus, which offers child care weekdays until 8:30 p.m. for just $30 a year.

"Our system would really assist parents who work for the district, especially when they have meetings, parent conferences, and after-school activities to attend," he said. ❑

# Letter to the Editor

## Resident: "Don't Move WWI Monument"

Dear Romulus residents:

This letter is to inform you of the intentions of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). For those of you who do not know, this group largely consists of businessmen and -women who do not live in Romulus. A couple of City employees who *are* Romulus residents also serve on the committee.

The DDA recently decided that it would be a good idea to move our community's World War I monument, which is currently located at the corner of Shook and Goddard roads. Among their reasons: an American flag cannot be properly displayed there because there is no lighting on the flag at night.

I remember that, many years ago, Mr. Leo Kolota (past manager of Comerica Bank) raised the flag every morning when he came to work and took it down every evening before he left. Unfortunately, we no longer have the benefit of his patriotic service.

What is up with the DDA? There are many of us who were born here (and who will probably die here, as well) who take great pride in that memorial, which symbolizes our gratitude, appreciation, and respect for those who fought. The memorial is part of our heritage in the downtown area. We have to preserve what little we have left. This monument represents the men and women who gave their lives for our country, and should not be dealt with at the whim of a few.

To try and move this old monument would be very risky. I do not feel it is worth that risk. To see a pile of broken concrete would be devastation. It could be replaced with a new one, but just what would be the historical value of that?

Moving this memorial will not serve this community with any great purpose. It is absolutely absurd.

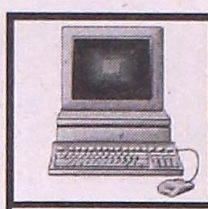
This association also wants to buy a 114-year-old house just to build a parking lot. Who will park there? The bank parking lot is empty most of the day now. It seems to me that the Downtown Development Authority could find other worthwhile things to spend their money on. The money must be burning a hole in their pockets.

Our city officials and residents need to sit up and take interest in this project and say "NO!" Protect our heritage; keep what we have.

Respectfully,
Jan Lemmon

* * *

*Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity. Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity. Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" column are not necessarily shared by the staff of "the little paper."* ❑

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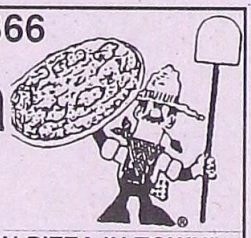

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# Council Acts To Maintain Memorial; Approves Contract for Major Facility Upgrades

*continued from page 1*

Well, it's very simple: it's the salt from the roads in the wintertime," he told Romulus City Council members during their August 9 meeting.

Because of salt corrosion and other factors, such as the improper display of the memorial's American flag due to insufficient night-lighting, Crane thinks it would be a good idea to relocate it.

"[Since] we're spending [roughly] $500,000 in the park for historical preservation [anyway], it kind of makes sense that we could move it ... and have it look nice again," he said. "... I think it's important that we keep our heritage alive."

Crane's vision is shared by many, including Ron Hopson, a fellow member of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Hopson believes that the members of the now-defunct Sunshine Club, who donated the memorial plaque sometime before World War II, would probably support its movement due to recurrent problems with litter and graffiti as well as salt corrosion.

"I've talked to some of the people in the community, and a few said, 'Well, that's where the Sunshine Club wanted it.' But, when the Sunshine Club put that monument there, Romulus was a different place than it is today," said Hopson. "... I think that if we could go back and get some of those Sunshine Club members here, they would probably be in concurrence."

Still, although Crane's restoration efforts are appreciated by most, not everyone agrees that the memorial should be relocated.

"I think that [Bill Crane and Ron Hopson] are both positive influences on [development and improvement] downtown," stated City Councilman Bill Wadsworth. "Unfortunately, I've got a different opinion of this."

Wadsworth, who remembers a former Sunshine Club member's opposition to a previous attempt to relocate the memorial, said, "I look at this spot as a piece of history in our downtown. There was a time when people stood there and they dedicated this piece of property for this plaque. ... And, probably, if you'd have told them that, in 75 years, we were going to move this, I believe that they would have complained about it.

"... My personal opinion is that it should stay where it is," he added. "I think people would actually see and walk by this more every day ... if it stays downtown."

A number of residents attending the Council meeting also spoke out against relocating the memorial.

Phil Renke, who worked for the City of Romulus for 14 years, disputed Crane's assertion that the monument had been long neglected. He said he worked on the memorial several times as a DPW employee, scraping and painting the base, replacing bolts on the flag pole, trimming back tree limbs that blocked the flag's nighttime spotlight, and arranging for the lightbulb to be replaced when it was out.

"The DPW, the City, did take care of that," Renke stated. "Now, maybe we didn't take care of it as much as [some might want], but it has been maintained.

"It should be the City's responsibility to maintain the monument to the City's satisfaction," he concluded.

Others who spoke out against the memorial's relocation included longtime residents Gerald Wendland, Jan Lemmon, and Hubert Staten.

"I'll admit that the thing needs to be remodeled – it needs work done to it, it needs to be taken better care of – [but] leave it where it's at. It's been there almost 100 years," Staten told Council.

Romulus Historical Commission president Mark Lewkowicz said he's gone back and forth on the issue, but now agrees that the monument should not be moved.

"I want to compliment Bill [Crane] for making us aware of the problems with this plaque," he began. "Initially, [when] this came up at our commission meeting, we did vote to do some restoration work [and] possibly add some brick and things like that ... but, now, after I got some calls from people [including Romulus resident Genevieve Dugan, whose mother and grandmother were Sunshine Club members], I'm back to my original position of leaving the monument where it is."

Later in the meeting, after residents had concluded their remarks, Councilman Wadsworth sought a resolution directing the administration to make sure that funds are made available to refurbish the monument and continue its preservation in the future.

Councilman Bill Crova seconded the motion, which passed, 5–0, with additional support from Council Chairman Randy Gear as well as Councilmen LeRoy Burcroff and Mike Prybyla.

## Other Council Action

**City Approves $2.5 Million in Building Improvements**

Council's 5–0 approval of an energy conservation and system maintenance contract with Honeywell carries a sticky price tag, but promises a sweet return.

"You're basically getting about $2.5 million of work, [yet] it's only costing the City $10,677 over what you're spending right now," said company spokesperson Dick Williams.

In a nutshell, the 15-year agreement calls for Honeywell to make a number of improvements to various City structures for the $2.5 million, then provide maintenance support for the remainder of the contract period at a cost of not more than $50,000 per year. Improvements will include:

- energy-efficient upgrades to heating/cooling systems, and installation of controls that will allow employees to regulate the climate in their own work areas;
- replacement of single-pane windows and doors;
- "building envelope tune-ups" that involve the recaulking of all windows and the installation of new weather stripping for all doors;
- upgrades to more energy-efficient lighting;
- installation of new, water-conserving faucets and commodes; and
- installation of backup generators that are capable of supporting a full service load at each building during emergency situations.

Chief among the improvements will be a newly installed central control system that will allow the City to monitor and maintain conditions in each building from a single location, 24 hours a day.

Honeywell staff members will train City employees in the use of the new equipment, and will also make regular visits to each building for preventive maintenance.

Honeywell promises that the improvements will save the City so much money in utility and other payments, they will literally pay for themselves. In fact, if projected savings don't meet the company's prediction, Honeywell will reimburse the City for the difference.

Estimates, said Williams, were based on an annual inflation rate of 4%.

Williams told Council that his company has entered into similar contracts with 4,000 companies and government agencies throughout the United States, including more than 100 here in Michigan. He also boasted that, to date, Honeywell has had a 97% success rate on guarantees totaling about $2 billion.

Finally, Williams assured the City that it isn't dealing with some fly-by-night company; indeed, he said, Honeywell has been in business for 118 years, and the location of company offices in the Detroit metro area means that emergency help is always nearby.

**"Preserve of Romulus" PDA Passed**

Council's second reading and final adoption of the City's latest Planned Development Area (PDA) has brought a new housing development – to be called the Preserve of Romulus – one step closer to reality.

Preliminary site plans for the development call for the construction of 205 single-family units (with basements) on an 85-acre parcel between Ecorse Road and Henry Ruff, just east of Wayne Road.

*continued on page 5*

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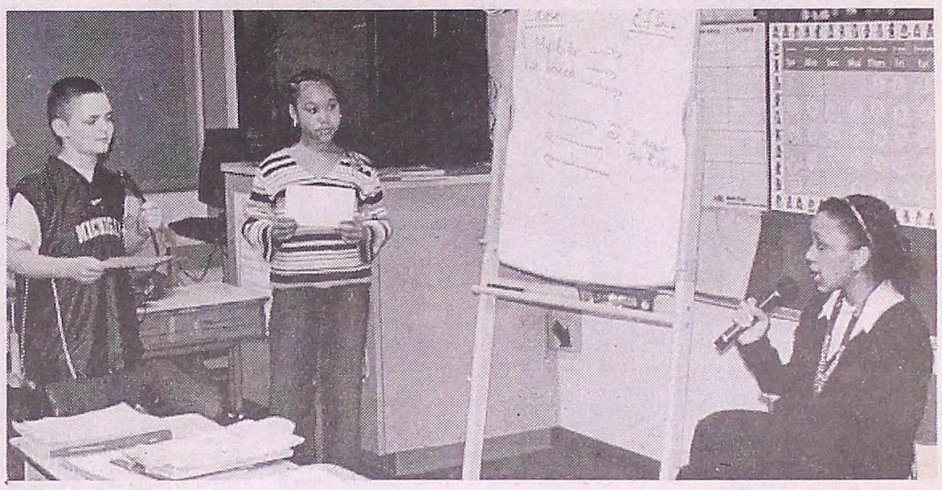
# Attorney Donates Time To Work with Merriman Students



**(From left) Nathan Wilkerson played an attorney and Nashelle Hill a witness in a skit with guest attorney Stephanie Powell at Merriman Elementary School. Powell gave the fourth-graders from Karensa Fitch's class some "mock" trial experience.**

Students at Merriman Elementary School had many words of thanks for Stephanie Powell, an attorney who was kind enough to donate her time to put on an outstanding legal workshop for the youngsters.

Powell, a graduate of the University of Michigan and Loyola University Law School (Chicago), presented the students with a scenario of events through three short stories, then asked them to make points for each side in the disputes depicted in the stories. Her purpose, she said, was to find out who was being truthful, and how you can tell if someone is really telling the truth. To accomplish this, she appointed students to fill the roles of attorneys, witnesses, and jury members.

Powell – who has had experience in the fields of juvenile justice, housing, and probate court – hoped to help the students understand the roles of a lawyer, defendant, witness, and judge. She also wanted them to teach them the difference between a criminal and civil trial.

"I was impressed with the interest shown by the children," she told Fitch. "They really got into these cases and showed strong opinions as to how they should be resolved." ❑

## *PDA Approved; Bond Issue Planned*

*continued from page 3*

Homes averaging about 2,000 square feet, and varying in size from about 1,600 to about 2,200 square feet, will be constructed on lots no smaller than 60 feet wide by 120 feet deep, with an overall density of about 2.9 units per acre.

Planned amenities for the community include a gazebo, a tot lot, and a sand volleyball court, as well as pedestrian paths with a number of "fitness stations."

The PDA was approved by a vote of 5–0.

**City To Advertise Its Intent To Issue Bonds for New Senior Center**

Another first step was taken when Council unanimously approved a resolution to advertise its intent to issue bonds for the acquisition/construction of a new senior-citizens center.

"The notice calls for the issuance of bonds – DDA bonds – by the City of Romulus in an amount not to exceed $3.5 million to pay for the project," explained a spokesperson for the City's bond counselors, Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, PLC.

"The project is expected to receive [Community Development Block Grant] funds that will cover approximately $2.1 million of that, and the remainder is expected to be paid from DDA tax increment revenues.

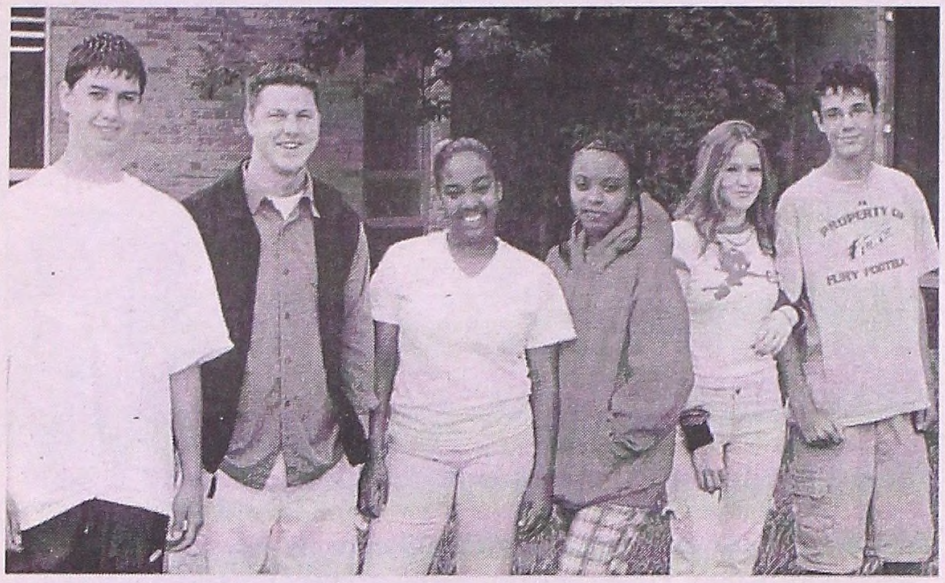
"The bonds can be issued without a vote of the people," he continued. "However, as part of the process, a notice is required to be published in the [City's legal] newspaper. If 10% of the registered voters of the city say they do not want the City to proceed with the project, and sign a petition and file it with the city clerk within 45 days, then the City could not proceed with the issuance of the bonds unless it was approved by the voters at an election."

Although neither project specifications nor cost estimates have been presented to Council to date, firmer facts and figures should be available in just a few months.

**Final Master Plan Workshop**

Council welcomes citizen participation in its last Master Plan workshop, to be held in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall on Thursday, August 26, at 7 p.m. ❑

# Over 200 Attend Romulus/ Belleville Summer School



**Among the 35 students who took part in the Romulus/Belleville Summer School program at Romulus High School were (from left) Jay Hanner, math teacher Jay Schmitt, Jasmine Hayes, Autumn King, Tricia Davidson, and Josh Shalhoub.**

The Romulus/Belleville Summer School program provided an excellent opportunity for students to polish up their academic skills. A total of 35 middle-school students and 172 high-school students took part in the program, hosted at Romulus High School.

Summer School principal Jaime Nelson – a Romulus High School language-arts teacher during the regular school year – was proud of the excellent attendance and work habits shown by her students.

"We have had students make the best of their education and earn credits toward graduation," she said. "Summer School students not only make up missed credits, but also take required classes to get them out of the way and make room for electives during the regular school year."

Middle-school student Jay Hanner was doing outstanding work, according to his math teacher. Jay Schmitt.

"Jay has received 100% on nearly all his exams so far," said Schmitt, who is currently on the staff at Taylor Kennedy High School after completing his student teaching at Romulus High.

Hanner, who used to attend school in Ohio, had trouble with the Romulus math curriculum, which he said was "completely different" from what he was used to in his old school. Summer school has made all the difference, however.

"My grades are right up there, and I can understand the Michigan system much better now," he noted.

High-school teacher Josh Baker said, "I really have enjoyed working with my classes this summer because my students are interested in their work and in doing their assignments. They're fun to work with!" ❑

**Summer School principal Jaime Nelson (front, right) and teacher Josh Baker (left) were proud of the achievements of their students, including: (from left) front – Teresa White, Casheena Parker, and Lindsey Olney; back – Otis Curn, Darwin Harris, Jr., Devin Milhouse, and Justin Lambert.**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# Champ Coach Has Busy Summer

Rhonda McAllister-Henry, head coach of Romulus High School's girls' basketball team, has had a very busy summer, and she has shared her hectic schedule with many of her players as they work toward a third straight Mega White League title.

For starters, McAllister-Henry – with the help of several members of her varsity team – conducted a week-long summer basketball camp for future stars from grades three through nine. The program, which was held June 21–24 at Romulus High School, stressed fundamental skills and promoted enthusiasm for the game.

McAllister-Henry's Lady Eagles players also spent plenty of time perfecting their own skills during summer camps held at the University of Michigan and Toledo University. Those skills were put to good use in the Plymouth-Canton Summer League, where the girls won many victories.

Yet another summer project for last year's Metro-West Coach of the Year was leading the AAU Southeastern Michigan Under-16 Girls All-Star Team to a state championship. The team, which included three players from RHS (Ashley Sibby, Paris Hawkins, and Janiece Armstrong), also played well in the AAU national tournament, which was held in Memphis, Tennessee.

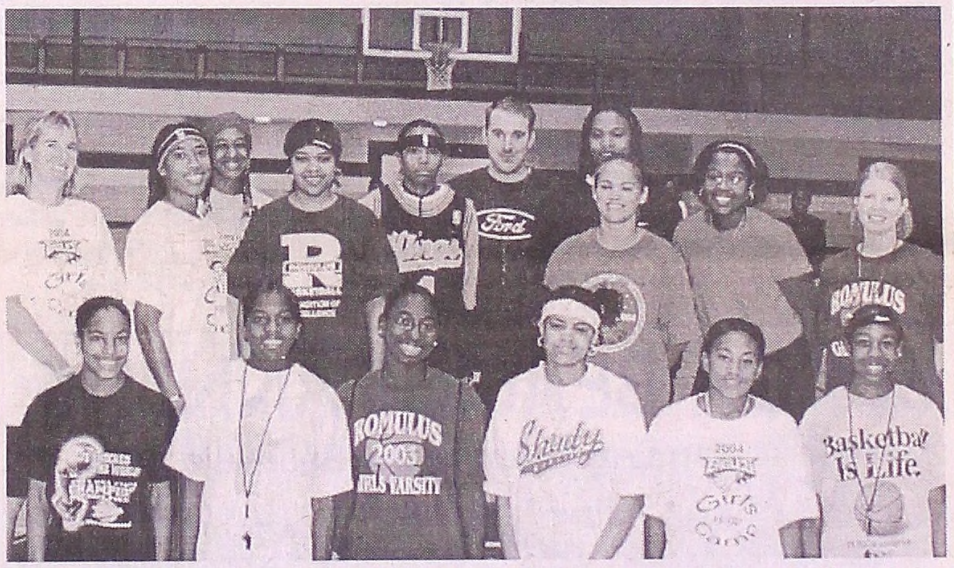
"We finished with a 2–2 record in our pool; then, in the bracket finals, we won the first game, but lost the second to a strong Chicago team," McAllister-Henry explained. "Janiece scored 23 points in one game, Paris scored 21 in another, and Ashley was our floor leader throughout the tournament.

"Quite a few college coaches were there," she added, "and several were impressed by members of our team."

The RHS Lady Eagles will open their fall season with a home game on Thursday, August 26, at 7 p.m. ❑

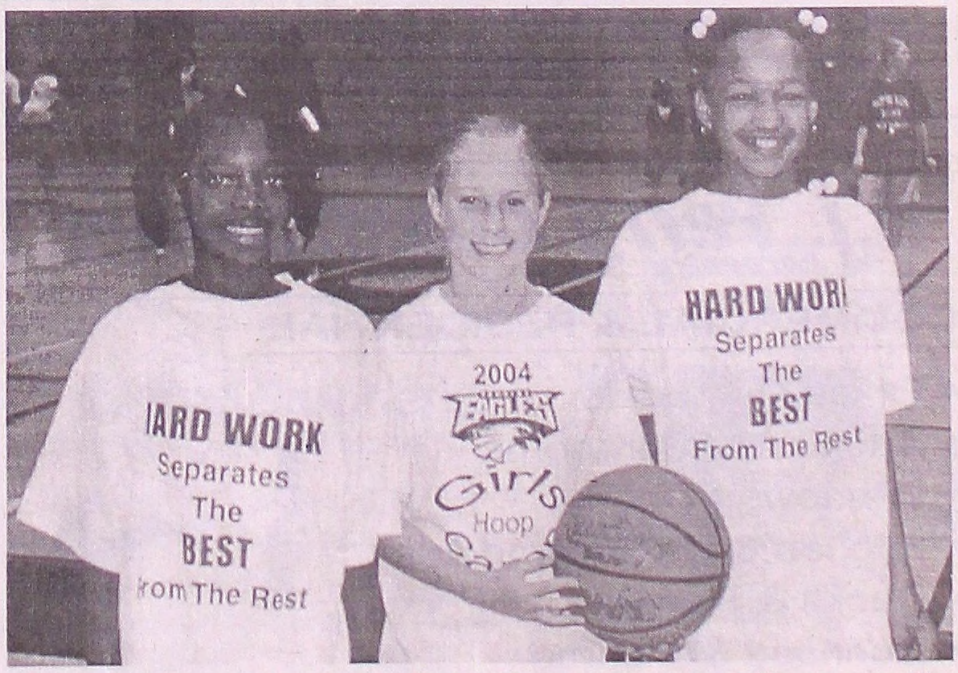
**Rhonda McAllister-Henry (standing, left), coach of the RHS Lady Eagles basketball team, was proud of her under-16 AAU team, which won the state championship and went 3–3 at nationals. Members included: (from left) front – Erica Yost (Livonia Ladywood) and Jasmine Speck (Anchor Bay); back – Jessica Knurick (Walled Lake Northern), Janiece Armstrong (Romulus), Jamie Rhodes (Livonia Ladywood), Ashley Sibby (Romulus), Paris Hawkins (Romulus), and Amanda Griffin (Bay City Central).**

**Among those taking part in McAllister-Henry's recent summer basketball camp for students from grades three through nine were: (from left) front – Brittney Charleston, Jessica Brown, Daria Jackson, Chelsea Whitfield, and Shyla Harbin; back – Erika Wasson, Dasja Jackson, Devan Hearst, Tyie Martin, and Amanda Collins.**



**McAllister-Henry (back, right) had the help of many assistants: (from left) front – Brittney Shreve, Landria Buckley, Candace Lawrence, Janiece Armstrong, Amanda Collins, and Erika Wasson; middle – Kellee Kubany, Patrice Beasley, Erika Mims, Kate Appel, and Jasmine Charles; back – Alisa Long, Ashley Sibby, Kevin McAllister, and Candice Finley.**

**Dr. Darnell Anderson (center), parent volunteer, helped Chelsea Earby (left) and Erin Bragg sharpen their skills for the upcoming season.**




**(From left) Stephanie Watley, Sarah Orr, and Diamond Altson proudly showed off their camp T-shirts.**

# RMS Students Enjoy Trip to Gettysburg, Washington D.C.

**Eighth-grade social-studies students from Romulus Middle School enjoyed their spring tour of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. Teacher Dan McCabe is looking forward to another trip this year.**

Social-studies students in Romulus Middle School teacher Dan McCabe's class learned a lot about various aspects of the history of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C., during an informative field trip taken this past spring. Forty eighth-grade students and six chaperones took part in the trip, which included stops at Gettysburg National Military Park, Arlington National Cemetery, the United States Holocaust Museum, and the National Air and Space Museum.

Brian Rogers, tour consultant from New Horizons Travel, suggested that, before departing from Romulus, students take a tour of Romulus Memorial Cemetery to pay tribute to men who fought at Gettysburg. Later, when students arrived for their tour of the Gettysburg National Military Park, they got to see an electric-map presentation that provided them with a brief history of the battle as well as a comprehensive understanding of the various areas of the battlefield.

Students also got to observe famous landmarks such as McPherson Farm, Reynolds Woods, the Iron Brigade Monument, the Peace Light Memorial at Oak Hill, Oak Ridge, and Barlow's Knoll. Additional locations of note that were visited by students included numerous Michigan, Virginia, and North Carolina monuments located throughout the battlefields, as well as the Robert E. Lee Headquarters, Confederate Avenue, Little Round Top, and the Wheatfield. The day concluded with the famous Sleepy Hollow of Gettysburg Candlelight Ghost Tour.

Later, students traveled to our nation's capital, visited Arlington National Cemetery, and saw sights such as Arlington House, the Kennedy grave sites, the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Challenger Memorial, and the Robert E. Lee mansion. They also toured the United States Holocaust Museum and the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Museum Complex.

Chaperone Celeste Roscoe, secretary of the Romulus Board of Education, noted, "The students really liked the tours of the Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean War Veterans, Franklin Roosevelt, and Jefferson memorials. Memories of these places will stay with our students for a long time."

Roscoe also commented on the fact that she received "many favorable comments" from other visitors about the demeanor of Romulus students throughout the tour.

Teacher Dan McCabe said that the tour's success made all the hard work and planning worthwhile.

"We had a good time, the students were exposed to a wide variety of historical materials, and they learned a lot," he said.

McCabe, who was also pleased with the students' behavior, intends to sponsor another trip in the spring of 2005 for this year's eighth-graders. ❑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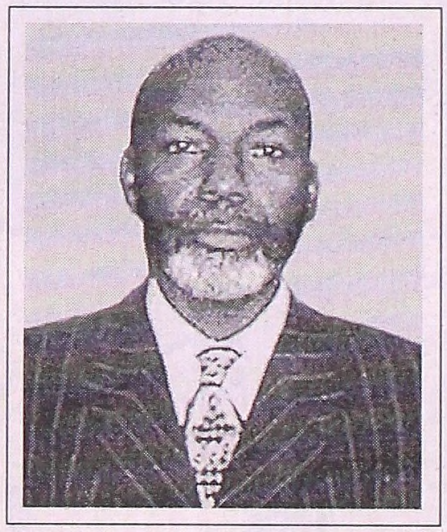

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Morning Worship: 11:00 am

Sunday Youth Church: 11:00 am

Sunday School: 9:30 am

Sunday New Members Class: 9:45 am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study: 6:00 pm

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Singles Ministry – 2nd Thursday

Marriage Ministry – 3rd Thursday: 7:00 pm

Ladies Ministry – 1st Friday: 7:00 pm

Youth Ministry – 2nd Saturday: 2:00 pm

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# Nearly 200 RHS Students of the Month Win $50 Bonds

Anna Bossidis (left) and RHS assistant principal Don Foley congratulated Megan Bearman on winning the Student of the Month program's annual grand-prize drawing for $500.

One hundred ninety-five Romulus High School students won a total of $9,750 in savings bonds through the school's Student of the Month program this year. Teachers nominated the students for the $50 bond awards based on their outstanding citizenship and academic work.

RHS assistant principal Don Foley noted, "We were happy to receive the support of 22 Romulus-area businesses and 22 individuals from the community, staff, and Romulus Board of Education for the 2003–2004 school year. Our staff members all agree that the program provides a strong incentive for our students to do good things in their classes.

"This brings our totals for the 12-year program up to $261,300 for 5,226 student winners," he added.

Junior Megan Bearman won the $500 grand prize in this year's final drawing. She said that she will use the money to help with her college tuition.

Additional final drawing winners included Patrick McCollum ($200), Jennifer Dick ($100), JuJuan Wright ($50), Ryan Tackett ($50), Ummer Ahmad ($50), Gloria Sucharski ($50), and Britany Wright ($50).

Area businesses that contributed to this year's program were: Aztec Manufacturing; Bailey Towing; Birclar Electric; Countrywood Florist; DGKS Warehouse; Michael K. Trucking; Downriver Pest Control; Elkins Machine and Tool; Gandol Contractors; Graduate Services; Header Products; Romulus Family Dental; Highway Maintenance and Construction; Leonardo's Ristorante; NAPA Detroit; Oakwood Healthcare System; Romulus Rotary Foundation; Dr. Kundan Sata; D.D.S.; Sylvan Learning Center, Toner Tool, Trans-Overseas Corporation, and United Brass Manufacturers.

Individuals who contributed included Kathy Balcom, Carole Bales, Joel R. Carr, Melissa Carr, Ed Clark, Tom Dolan, Gail Fraley, Bill Garland, Theresa Kamensky, Lance Knudson, Don Kobane, Dick Kruse, Shirley Lamberson, Art and Eva McDonald, Ken Mientkiewicz, William Routhier, Celeste Roscoe, Tikia Shuford, Cindy Thackaberry, Chuck Usztics, and Niema White.

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# Western Michigan University Mentoring Program Ends

**Dr. Cynthia Halderson (left), an Education Department professor at Western Michigan University, discussed her findings about the Cory Elementary mentoring program with first-grade teacher Kara Pluff and principal Phyllis Adkins.**

The Western Michigan University–Romulus Community Schools cooperative teacher mentoring program, funded by a $112,000 grant, has come to a successful completion, reports district spokesperson Dick Kruse. More than 80 Romulus teachers served as mentors and mentees throughout this unique program.

"We have gained a lot of information about the mentor–mentee relationship, and we intend to incorporate that knowledge into our educational course offerings at Western Michigan in the future," said Dr. Cynthia Halderson, an education professor at WMU.

"We were very pleased with the enthusiastic support we received from teachers and administrators in the Romulus Community Schools," she added.

Dr. Halderson teamed with Dr. Mark Jennes to supervise the program in Romulus. They both conducted extensive interviews with program mentors and mentees, and additionally designed special workshops for the participants.

"The mentor–mentee relationship should be like an effective teacher in-service workshop, where strengths/weaknesses and possible improvements are continuously discussed," explained Jennes. "This process was very important because frustration can easily set in when things are not working correctly. Nationally, up to 50% of teachers leave the profession within the first five years."

Halderson was very pleased with the results of the questionnaires that mentors and mentees completed.

"This showed us that we are on the right track, and that we attained excellent results from the cooperative settings we established for the Romulus mentor/mentee groups," she concluded.

The grant additionally helped the Romulus school district meet the State of Michigan requirement for new-teacher mentoring during the first three years of teaching. ❑

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# RES Students, Parents, and School Combine for Great Results

Dick Kruse, spokesperson for the Romulus Community Schools, says that students, parents, and administrators at Romulus Elementary School have worked together to achieve some really special results this year.

"The school recorded some impressive MEAP scores in only its third year of existence, and parents did a super job of fund-raising to provide special student opportunities," said Kruse.

Principal Lynne Mossoian was thrilled to see that her school had beaten the state averages on each of the six elementary-level MEAP (Michigan Education Assessment Program) tests.

"This was our best showing so far, and shows what can be accomplished when we all work together," she said.

Mossoian implemented new parent recognition dinners at the Romulus Hilton Inn and Gateway Golf Club this year to recognize parents who went the extra mile for their children. Activities for which parents were honored included: attending parent-teacher conferences and open-house programs, signing off on their child's homework and reading log, attending special events such as parent workshops and science/math nights, participating on parent committees, and/or doing volunteer work for classrooms and the library.

**Romulus Elementary School parent volunteers enjoyed their "Parents as Educational Partners Appreciation Dinner," held at the Gateway Golf Club. Among those in attendance were (from left) Lanita White, Tykese Butler, Mickey Ellis, Timothy Ellis, Dontonio Thompson, Keesha Thompson, Melvina Daniels-Calloway, Mia Daniel, and Lori Swistara.**

Principal Mossoian attracted large crowds of parents to her dinner programs, which featured district administrators Joel R. Carr, superintendent, and Ed Clark, director of human resources, as guest speakers. She was also able to offer inspirational assemblies for her students, such as the assembly that featured WDIV-Channel 4 News anchor/children's author Devin Scillian, who shared some of his life's experiences with his young listeners.

Another big feature of the past school year was the weekly Monday morning assembly for all students.

"Here, we try to put everything else behind us and get ready for a meaningful week of school," Mossoian explained. "Our assemblies are designed to inspire students to do their best."

This format, said Mossoian, has encouraged RES students to excel in their school work, and has resulted in a large number of students on the all-A and regular honor rolls during the year.

Staff members and support personnel were additionally cited for their outstanding efforts. Staff members developed workshops on a number of timely topics that helped parents develop student achievement strategies.

"Our staff members were involved with various committees that further enhanced student achievement, and they often gave extra time to attend evening school functions."

Finally, Mossoian was impressed by the warm spirit of giving shown by her community. The Parents as Educational Partners group donated turkey dinners to many needy families during the Thanksgiving holiday, and also raised significant amounts of money to help fund student incentives for the school year. ❑

**RES parents who participated in a number of spring-semester activities that supported their children were recently honored. Parent officials include LaZonja Smith (left), Board of Education trustee Niema White (front, center), and Cheryl Kidd (back, right). Also pictured are Joel R. Carr, superintendent, and Lynne Mossoian, principal.**


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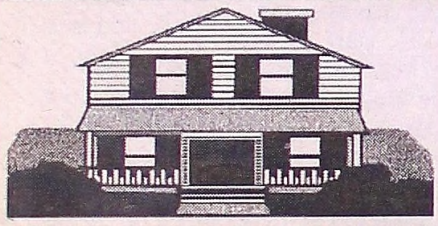

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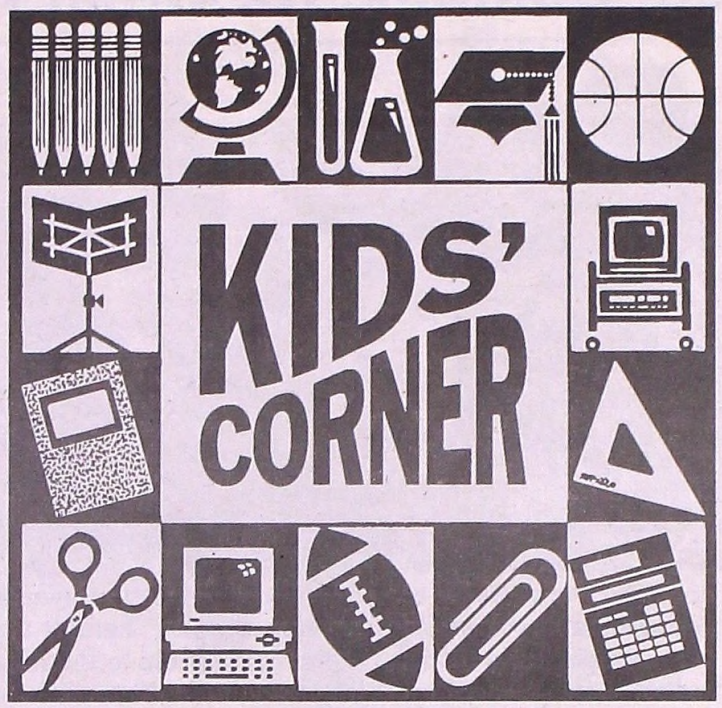



## Homes in the wild puzzler

Draw a line from the animal to its proper home and nesting site.

1. Flamingo
2. Weaver ant
3. Prairie dog
4. Crayfish
5. Termite
6. Chipmunk
7. Beaver

A. Grass-lined burrow in the ground
B. Wood piled in water
C. A nest in the ground all winter
D. Cups of mud
E. Roofed burrows near water
F. Tall earth towers
G. Leaves and white silk

**Answers**

1. D 2. G 3. A 4. E 5. F 6. C 7. B

# Let's go to the circus!

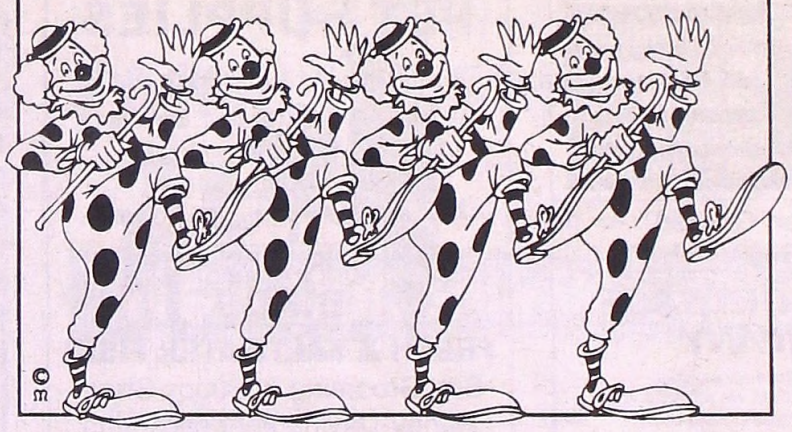
Going to the circus is a lot of fun. There are so many things going on at once. What's your favorite part of the circus? The interesting facts below may help you decide:

• Bears were the first wild animals to be trained to do tricks and perform circus shows. Others, like the beautiful white horses with plumes came later.

• The trotting horse performance is often called the "carrousel" or "merry-go-round" because the horses trot in a perfect circle around a ring.

• And, what about those enormous elephants? Where do they come from? Most arrive from India. The African elephants have larger ears, and are much fiercer, so it is easier to train Indian elephants.

Lions, tigers, seals, monkeys and camels are just a few of the many creatures that give us hours of enjoyment and pleasure when the circus comes to town! Oh, and don't forget the clowns!



K6930014

# Find the animals

Can you fill in the missing letters to make names of animals? Each dash represents a letter.

1. _ I G _ R
2. _ E _ _ A
3. H _ _ S _
4. _ O _ K _ _
5. G _ _ A _ F _
6. _ A _ G _ _ O _
7. E _ _ P _ A _ _
8. _ H E _ _ A _
9. D _ _ K _ Y
10. _ _ _ U

**Answers**

1. Tiger
2. Zebra
3. Horse
4. Monkey
5. Giraffe
6. Kangaroo
7. Elephant
8. Cheetah
9. Donkey
10. Gnu

K6930013

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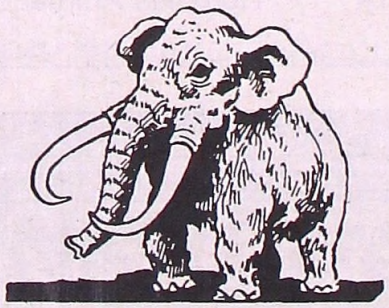

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# Community Calendar

- **"Parade of Lights" Entries Sought** – The Romulus Rotary Club is currently seeking entries for the sixth annual Parade of Lights, which will kick off the Romulus Pumpkin Festival on Friday, September 17, at 8 p.m. *All entries must be illuminated in keeping with the parade's theme.* Prizes will be awarded in three categories: people/animal powered, motorized, and commercial. This year, the parade will begin at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road), travel north to Goddard, then continue west along Goddard to Five Points. Parade participants are urged to park at Progressive Hall, then use the shuttle service to assemble at City Hall to reduce congestion in the parade staging area. Refreshments will be served at Progressive Hall immediately following the parade. For more information, or for an application, visit www.romulusrotary.org or call 734-941-3635.
- **Looking for "Grand Marshal" Nominations** – Jason Kahler, homecoming advisor at Romulus High School, is inviting local residents to help the school select a grand marshal for the annual Homecoming Parade. To be eligible for consideration, a candidate must be someone who has represented the school district and/or community in a positive way. Nominations should be submitted to Kahler (c/o Romulus High School, 9650 South Wayne Road, Romulus, Michigan 48174) by August 31. Nominations should include the nominee's name, a brief summary of his/her qualifications, and the name and phone number of the person making the nomination.
- **Volunteers Needed for Bingo Benefit** – Councilman Bill Wadsworth and the Friends of the New Romulus Animal Shelter will host bingo in the former DPW building (between the railroad tracks and the Romulus Senior Center) throughout the Romulus Pumpkin Festival: Friday, September 17, 1 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, September 18, 1 to 11 p.m.; and Sunday, September 19, from 1 to 8 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the Romulus Animal Shelter. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Wadsworth at 734-941-0616.
- **Drop Your Recyclables At St. Aloysius** – St. Aloysius Catholic Church of Romulus – currently conducting its "Recycling for Our Children's Future" program – is urging local residents to drop their junk mail, shopping catalogs, magazines, and newspapers into the big green-and-yellow bin in the church parking lot. For more information, call 734-941-5056.
- **RHS Class of 1954 Holds 50th Reunion** – Romulus High School's Class of '54 will host its 50th reunion on Friday, September 17, and Saturday, September 18. Class members who have not yet received an invitation are urged to call Gloria (Koester) Chandler at 734-941-2678.
- **RHS Class of 1985 Planning 20th Reunion** – Romulus High School's Class of 1985 is already planning its 20th reunion for next year. Class members who have not received information by mail should log on to www.rhs1985.com or call Rhonda at 313-383-4332 for details.
- **Pasta Dinner/Silent Auction Fund-raiser** – The Sumpter Republican Club PAC would like to invite the public to attend its first annual Pasta Dinner Fund-raiser/Silent Auction, set for 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, August 19, at VFW Hall (44170 Bemis Road, between Martinsville and Sumpter roads) in Belleville. Tickets are $10 for adults, $8 for senior citizens, and $5 for kids. Family tickets (3 to 5 members) will also be available for $25 each. For more information, call Bart Patterson (734-502-9403) or Don Watson (502-9239).
- **Hopgood To Host Coffee** – State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood is inviting area residents to attend his next coffee/discussion program, set for 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, August 23, at Romulus House Restaurant (9110 South Wayne Road, at Wick Road). For more information, call Hopgood's office (517-373-0852), or e-mail him at hoon-yunghopgood@house.mi.gov.
- **Lambert Hosts Town Meeting** – Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert will hold his next Town Meeting at the Coleman Center (35351 Beverly) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 25. To reserve your seat, call 734-942-7571.
- **Nursery Program Has Openings** – Huron Countryside Co-op Nursery – a nonprofit, nondiscriminatory organization located in St. Paul's Church (corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston) – is now accepting enrollment for its three-/four-year-old classes for the 2004–2005 school year. For more information, or to receive an enrollment package, contact Lynn Emery at 734-782-0876.

*To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907*

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# District Insurance Trust Shows Impressive Results

**Among the Romulus Community Schools bus drivers who took part in a special MAISL Trust summer workshop were (front, from left) Kathy Shipp, Diane Austin, Debbie Fabrizio, Kerry Vaughn, Nancy Mahalak, and JoAnn Prater. Trainer Mac Dashney (back), former transportation supervisor for the Lansing Public Schools, was the presenter.**

The MAISL Joint Risk Management Trust – a group of 35 Michigan school districts organized to provide property casualty and liability insurance – showed impressive results for the 2003–2004 school year, said Romulus Community Schools superintendent Joel R. Carr.

"Executive director Jerry Dunn announced that the renewal fee for 2004–2005 would be only 3% – an excellent rate when compared to the overall marketplace," he explained.

According to Carr, the MAISL Trust started with nine districts– including Romulus – in the initial group.

"The organization's efficiency has led to additional districts joining on a yearly basis," said Carr. "Lapeer Schools will join this year; last year, Linden, Grosse Pointe, and Dexter joined."

Local member districts include Taylor, Wayne-Westland, Garden City, Livonia, Westwood, Dearborn, and Southgate. Metro Detroit districts include communities such as Bloomfield Hills, Northville, Rochester, and West Bloomfield.

Director Dunn noted, "The Trust continues to post impressive results and attract districts that are concerned about containing insurance costs."

Property values for the Trust will exceed $6.6 billion this school year.

The Trust's executive committee has dedicated committees for loss prevention, safety, and employee training. The Trust also provides a variety of workshops that help with employees' safety training.

This summer, Romulus bus drivers took part in workshops that focused on safe driving/parking procedures. Bill Routhier, Director of Business and Operations, said, "We always participate in these workshops. They are very effective, and help us maintain our excellent bus driving record." ❑

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# Sassy Seniors

*By Mary E. Clark*

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins in the downtown area, please call 734-955-4120.)

**Fun Fest 2004**

Programs director Linda Norman is reminding everyone that Fun Fest 2004 is set for Friday, August 13, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. A variety of entertainments and games will be supplemented with a special lunch (hot dog, potato chips, and beverage for $1.75) and dinner (mostaccioli, veggie, garlic bread, dessert, and beverage for $5.50), as well as door prizes, exhibits, and various health screenings.

A partial schedule of events appears in the Senior Center's monthly newsletter, *The Communicator*, and is also available for pickup at the Center.

This popular annual event is jointly sponsored by the Romulus Senior Center and Romulus Tower apartments.

**Senior Day at the Michigan State Fair**

Romulus seniors will attend the Michigan State Fair's annual Senior Citizens Day on Monday, August 16. Transportation ($1) will depart from the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. and return around 3 p.m. Admission is free for ages 60 and over; cost of food not included. Register now.

**Toledo Zoo**

The Romulus Senior Center will travel to the Toledo Zoo on Friday, August 20. Call the Center for information.

**Fishing Trip & Picnic**

Join the Romulus Senior Center for an afternoon of old-fashioned summer fun! This fishing trip/picnic – planned for Wednesday, August 25 – includes transportation, admission and lunch for a cost of just $10!

Note: Fish that are caught cannot be thrown back. The cost for trout is $4.99 per pound plus $.30 per fish for cleaning; catfish is $4.49 per pound and $.50 per fish for cleaning.

Transportation will depart from the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. Reserve your seat now.

**Movie Day**

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing the comedy *Miss Congeniality* – starring Sandra Bullock, Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt, and Candice Bergen – at 1 p.m. on Monday, August 30. Light refreshments will be served.

**Bowlers and Substitutes Needed**

The Romulus Senior Center will kick off the fall bowling season at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, with an orientation meeting for the Monday Bowling League for seniors age 50 and over. Both regular bowlers and substitutes are needed. For more information, contact Mary at 734-721-3708.

**Wanted: Crafters**

The Romulus Senior Center is looking for senior crafters to take part in the Center's annual Pumpkin Festival Craft Show, set for September 17–19. Early registration is strongly encouraged, as these free spaces are available on a first-come/first-served basis until filled.

**Club One Welcomes You!**

Club One, a senior citizens' group that usually meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m., will hold meetings on the following dates:

- August 18 (outing – Diamond Jack boat ride/Rex's; 12:15 p.m.); and
- August 31 (bingo; bag lunch).

As always, new faces are welcome.

**Regular Programs**

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

**Haircuts**

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, August 16, beginning at 10 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment.

Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointments, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

**TeleCare Program Available**

The Romulus Senior Center's TeleCare program provides seniors with daily phone reassurance at no cost. To learn more, call the Center's friendly staff.

**Hot Lunches**

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for only $1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation. ❑

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## ROMULUS COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## REGULAR MEETING, JULY 26, 2004

The Regular Meeting of the Romulus Board of Education held on Monday, July 26, 2004, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by President Cheryle Buckley.

Roll call showed all Board members present. Administrators present were: Joel R. Carr, Superintendent; William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations; Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources; and Tom Dolan, Director of Curriculum.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Buckley.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**7/04/18** Moved by Frayer supported by Lenossi to approve the Agenda as amended. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**7/04/19** Moved by Lenossi supported by Frayer that the Board approve the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting and Regular Meeting of July 12, 2004, as presented. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:**

***Adoption of Board Resolution***

**7/04/20** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Lenossi to adopt retirement resolutions for Mary Albus, who gave 31 years of service; Paula Barnes, 33 years of service; Robert Beauchamp, 29 years of service; Suzanne Eastman, 28 years of service; Christine Hobson, 30 years of service; Darrell Kenyon, 30 years of service; Jesse Meriweather, 34 years of service; Evelyn Koerber, 21 years of service; Phyllis Kreft, 30 years of service; James Orme, 26 years of service; Sandra Rakoczy, 21 years of service; and Catherine Uhring, 35 years of service. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

***Personnel Actions***

Mr. Ed Clark, Director of Human Resources, offered the following personnel actions for Board approval.

EMPLOYMENT: Maria Alvarez, Special Education Teacher, Romulus Middle School, effective 2004–2005 school year; Alexia Mancilla, Special Education Teacher, Romulus High School, effective 2004–2005 school year; and Paul Polanski, Science Teacher, Romulus High School, effective 2004–2005 school year.

**7/04/21** Moved by Mientkiewicz supported by Roscoe that the Board of Education accept the employment of personnel as submitted. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

***Appointment of Board Member Committees***

President Cheryle Buckley appointed Board committee members as follows:

**Policy Committee** – Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, and Betty Lenossi
**Personnel Committee** – April Frayer, Betty Lenossi, and Niema White
**Finance Committee** – Celeste Roscoe, Kenneth Mientkiewicz, and Thomas Kuderik.
**District Initiatives Committees:**
***Healthy Living*** – Celeste Roscoe
***Technology*** – Open
***Climate*** – Betty Lenossi
***Community/School*** – Kenneth Mientkiewicz
***Preschool*** – April Frayer
***Assessment*** – Open

***Special Education Relocation – Update***

Mr. William Routhier, Director of Finance and Operations, advised the Board that the low bid of $15,961.00 from Pinnacle Services Construction for the demo of two offices at Mt. Pleasant and rebuild at Halecreek Elementary had been accepted by the district.

***Communications and Expressions from the Public***

There were no communications from the public.

***Items of Interest from the Superintendent***

Mr. Joel R. Carr, Superintendent, shared the following items of interest with members of the Board of Education: 1) Merriman Elementary Annual Report; 2) Romulus Elementary Annual Report; 3) Technology Annual Report; 4) Special Ed Communication – RESA; 5) CSRD – Grant Award; 6) Communication, State of Michigan – Commendation; and 7) Amended Schedule of Meetings.

**QUESTIONS AND/OR CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Kenneth Mientkiewicz asked about the status of food service. Mr. William Routhier, Director of Business and Operations, advised that bids are being taken now, and that the award of the bid should be made at the second meeting in August.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**7/04/22** Moved by White supported by Lenossi to convene into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Frayer, Buckley, and Roscoe. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Executive Session at 6:53 p.m.

**7/04/23** Moved by White supported by Mientkiewicz to reconvene into Regular Session. Roll call vote: Ayes: Kuderik, Lenossi, White, Mientkiewicz, Frayer, Buckley, and Roscoe. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The Board convened into Regular Session at 7:29 p.m.

**EASEMENT – MT. PLEASANT PROPERTY:**

**7/04/24** Moved by Lenossi supported by Mientkiewicz that the Board authorize the Superintendent to negotiate and enter into agreement with Orco, Inc., on the proposed easement on Superior Road (Mt. Pleasant property). Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**7/04/25** Moved by Lenossi supported by White to adjourn. Ayes: 7. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Celeste Roscoe, Secretary, Romulus Board of Education

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### BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

**THE ROMULUS NEWS**
P.O. Box 74038
Romulus, MI 48174-0038

Baby's Name _____
Birthdate _____ Time _____
Weight _____ Length _____
Birthplace _____
Parents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____
_____
_____
Maternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

# Obituary

## Glenn Allen Moran

**Glenn Moran**

Glenn Allen Moran of Monroe, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, July 21, 2004, at the age of 42.

The Daimler Chrysler employee was born in Pontiac, Michigan, on Tuesday, December 12, 1961.

A fun-loving individual who made friends everywhere he went, Glenn was the spark that lit up all his family's outings. He was a natural athlete, and his hobbies included "every sport known to man."

Glenn leaves behind his beloved wife, Carla (Little) Moran; 4 dear children, sons Joshua A. and Joseph M. Moran, and daughters Chalynn T. and Stephona J. Moran; his parents, Melvin and Norma "June" Cayton (OH); 2 brothers, Robert Moran (Monroe) and Joseph (Deborah) Moran (Waterford, MI); 3 sisters, Belinda F. (Donald) Abraham (OH), Sherry A. (Jeff) Usher (Romulus, MI), and Connie Deaton (Detroit, MI); his grandmother, Helen Cayton (OH); and a host of uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, and cousins.

A funeral service was held on Monday, July 26, at Rupp Funeral Home (Monroe, MI), with Reverend Lawrence Detruf officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). ❑

### ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
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Attach any additional information concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

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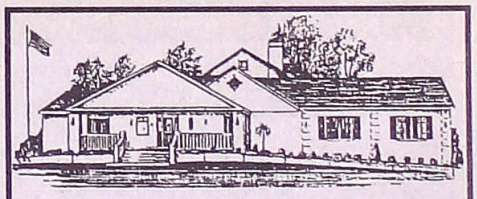

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